

FREE

The New Forest Essential Guide

to the National Park 2019

Maps
Events guide
Places to explore
Walking & cycling

The New Forest Essential Guide
is brought to you by:



Forestry England



Welcome

Year of Green Action in the New Forest

The New Forest National Park is a world-class landscape of spectacular beauty, rare wildlife and ancient traditions - thanks to a range of organisations working together. Join us in celebrating UK National Parks' 70th birthday and the Forestry Commission's 100th birthday with exciting activities throughout 2019.

Celebrating 100 years of forestry



The New Forest events are part of a nationwide Year of Green Action - a year-long drive to get more people from all ages and backgrounds involved in improving the natural world.

Many of the initiatives are specifically aimed at those aged 20 or under and include:

- Fun wildlife activities for all ages at the New Forest Show in July
- Opportunities for hundreds of youngsters to take part in outdoor experiences as part of the John Muir and National Citizenship Service schemes

- A small grants scheme for groups to bid for financial support for their green action ideas
- The Big Pedall Ride Out- an all-inclusive celebrity-led bike ride for all.

Plenty more events are planned. Read on to see our events pages or visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/YOGA for more details.

Plus find out more at:
forestryengland.uk/newforest
newforestnpa.gov.uk

@newforestnpa
newforestnpa



Meet the locals!

If you enjoy seeing the commoners' animals in the National Park then help us protect them through some simple actions:

1. Please **#keepyourdistance** from the animals. However tame they may appear they are unpredictable, and can bite and kick. Take particular care around ponies with foals and cattle especially if you have a dog with you.
2. Please don't feed the animals. It is vital that they graze naturally, both for their own survival all year round and for the benefits this brings to the landscape.
3. Please help reduce animal accidents by driving with extra care, particularly in poor visibility. Just **#add3minutes** to your journey across the New Forest to keep yourself and the commoners' animals safe.

When you visit the New Forest one of the first things you will notice is the free roaming animals. It's rare to travel more than a few miles without coming across these famous Forest residents.

The ponies, cattle, pigs, donkeys and, in certain areas, sheep graze and forage on unfenced common land and are owned by local families using their commoning rights.

The members of these families are called 'commoners' - ordinary people with an extraordinary commitment to this special place. They have commoning rights from land they own, rent or share that allows them to graze their animals on the Open Forest.

The ponies and cattle are sometimes described as 'the architects of the Forest'. Their grazing creates the special qualities of the New Forest, that we all love and enjoy - the open landscape, the close-cropped 'lawns' and the distinctive 'browse line' on the trees marking the highest point they can reach. This supports incredible biodiversity, making the New Forest a home for many rare and threatened species.

Did you know?



The area in which a pony lives is known as its haunt.

The ponies move around their haunt according to the seasons and weather. In the summer ponies often go to shade under the same trees each day, commoners have names for each of these 'shades' and will search them out when looking for their ponies.



Animal emergency hotline cards are available from Local Information Points and garages across the Forest, keep one in your wallet so you know what to do if you are involved in an accident.

Walking in the New Forest

Follow our waymarked walks and trails...

The following trails are marked on the ground by wooden marker posts with coloured bands. An overview map of each route is displayed at the start point in the car park. All routes are circular and will bring you back to your starting point. The numbers refer to map locations on centre pages.

② From Bolderwood car park

Deer Watch Trail 0.75km/0.5 miles

A short stroll leading you to a deer viewing platform overlooking fields where wild herds of fallow deer are frequently seen. The path is a moderately smooth, gravelled surface with gentle slopes and benches along the way. The trail is accessed by a gate which has a low catch.

Jubilee Grove Trail 1.5km/1 mile

Including the deer fields, this meandering route leads you past some majestic trees, the oldest of which date back to 1860. Benches from which to admire their beauty can be found along the way. The path is a moderately smooth, gravelled surface with two short 'but fairly steep' slopes and frequent resting places. The trail is accessed via a gate which has a low catch.

Radnor Trail 3km/2 miles

A longer route which takes you into the heart of the forest and across the Bratley Water stream. Benches and picnic benches are located along the trail. The path is a moderately smooth, gravelled surface with two short 'but fairly steep' slopes and frequent resting places. The trail is accessed via a gate which has a low catch.

⑥ From Blackwater or Brockhill car parks:

Tall Trees Trail 2.5km/1.5 miles

Follow the marker posts and you will be guided along a shady path beneath mighty Douglas firs and redwoods that were planted during the reign of Queen Victoria. The path has a fairly smooth, gravelled surface. The trail is flat with frequent resting places and no gates.

Blackwater Arboretum Trail 0.75km/0.5 miles

A circular route which leads you past tree species from around the world. By following the unique panels you can use your senses to discover the secrets that these trees hold. Benches are located along the walk. The path has a fairly smooth, gravelled surface with one very gentle slope.

⑦ From Whitefield Moor or Puttles Bridge car parks:

Ober Water Trails

1.5km/1 mile (red trail)

Two circular routes follow the Ober Water midway between its source and the sea. Close to this meandering stream is the open grassy expanse of Whitefield Moor. The paths are moderately smooth, gravelled surfaces and compacted grassy ground with some gentle slopes and a few resting places. This trail can be muddy after wet weather.

③ Reptile Centre car park:

Reptile Trail 2km/1.5 miles

Enjoy a circular walk through the woods. The trail mainly follows a fairly smooth, gravelled surface.

⑧ Wilverley car parks:

Wilverley Wander 4.2km/2.5 miles

A longer and more informal trail which winds through this diverse and working woodland. The paths are moderately smooth, gravelled surfaces with some short, steep slopes. Please note that part of this trail is on a cycle route.

⑤ Knightwood car park:

Knightwood Oak Less than 0.25 miles

A short stroll to one of the most famous trees in the New Forest. Believed to have been planted before 1600, this tree is still going strong and is a spectacular example of the ancient practice of pollarding. Benches are located throughout. The path has a fairly smooth, gravelled surface.

Miles of waymarked trails to explore!



Learn more about the special qualities of the New Forest while enjoying a healthy stroll.

Free walking routes app

There's an easy way for you to follow the best walks routes in the New Forest this year – **the National Park's walking routes app**.

Available for Android and iPhone, the app features 27 walking routes of various lengths from coastal strolls to woodland walks.

It makes following the routes easier than ever, with GPS navigation allowing you to see your location at all times. This removes the need to read a map or decipher written directions, making it perfect for the casual walker.

Each route on the app also features points of interest, where you can find out about interesting history or nature facts along the route.

Download for free at newforestnpa.gov.uk/walksapp



FREE Walking pack
Subscribe to our email newsletter at newforestnpa.gov.uk and receive a free online walking pack of routes and ranger tips.

No smartphone? No problem!

All walks are available to download and print at newforestnpa.gov.uk/routes

Sample walks

Keyhaven Marshes

A 3.5 mile walk with coastal birdlife and views of the Isle of Wight.

Burley village

A 4.2 mile walk full of stories of folklore and smuggling.

Brook to Minstead village

A 7.2 mile walk to the Rufus Stone to discover the mystery surrounding the death of King William II.

Godshill and Castle Hill

A 2.6 mile walk along quiet field and woodland paths to the site of an Iron Age hill fort.





Cycling in the New Forest

Cycle code and map

Grab a **cycle trail map** before heading out on your adventure. It shows both off-road and road-based cycle networks across the New Forest, plus details of bike hire outlets.

Available at outlets across the New Forest National Park, including local information points.

£1 only



We've got the trails are you ready to ride?

Explore the National Park on two wheels, with more than 100 miles of waymarked family-friendly cycle routes, much of it off the public highway and traffic-free.

The network is easily accessible from railway stations at Ashurst, Brockenhurst and Sway and links the main New Forest villages. There are plenty of places to hire bikes before and during your stay.

For all the best trails visit:
newforestnpa.gov.uk/routes

Follow the New Forest Cycle Code

The New Forest is a working forest, with forestry, farming and equestrian activity on its narrow roads and tracks. Ponies, cattle and other animals are free to roam the forest and most of its roads.

Be aware that animals are easily startled and may suddenly move into your path.

Please follow both the Highway Code and the **New Forest Cycling Code** which is supported by cycling groups and local organisations.

newforestnpa.gov.uk/cycling

If you are cycling in an organised event, follow the additional instructions to minimise your impact.

Adventure cycling

For more adventurous cyclists, there are purpose-built mountain bike skills circuits at **Moors Valley Country Park**, Ringwood. Here you will find a network of forest road graded trails, as well as blue graded single track. A cycle map is available from the visitor centre on-site.

Off-road cycling in the New Forest is permitted only on waymarked routes. Please take a look at our cycle trail map for more information.



Horse riding in the New Forest

The New Forest is a wonderful place to go horse riding. There are mature woods, shady streams, dappled glades and beautiful open heathland – what better way to see the landscape than from the back of a horse? You can walk quietly through magnificent oak woods, past tall conifers, or strike across the heathland enjoying the views and the wild open country.

Horse riders have always enjoyed open access in the forest, which has lots of suitable tracks.

When leaving Forestry England land, remember to use the bridleways. On private land, riders must keep to Public Rights of Way. These are shown on Ordnance Survey maps, and are usually indicated by fingerposts and/or blue arrows or dots.



See the best of the Forest

View the New Forest National Park from a different perspective this summer. Experience the best views of the forest on the open-top New Forest Tour or find out the best places to visit from the friendly Travel Concierge.

Where to stay?

For more information on where to stay, what to see and do in the New Forest visit: thenewforest.co.uk

Tips from the Travel Concierge

If you're looking for ideas on how to make the most of your visit to the New Forest National Park then look no further.

The friendly Travel Concierge team, based at Brockenhurst railway station, will welcome you to their pedal-powered mobile unit full of information on car-free experiences and the best places to visit.

Stop by and say hello from **Sat 6 July to Sun 8 September**. Find out more at newforestnpa.gov.uk/travel_concierge

 @NewForestTravel
 NewForestTravel



New Forest Tour

The New Forest Tour gives you the best views of the New Forest National Park and is the perfect excuse to leave your car at home.

The Tour offers unrivalled treetop views of free-roaming ponies, ancient forests and picturesque villages. There are three beautiful routes to choose from: red, green and blue – and you can hop on and off where you like and switch routes – all on the same ticket.

You can even bring your bikes (carried free) and listen to audio commentary that brings the history and characters of the New Forest to life. The perks don't stop there, as you can enjoy a free ferry ride from Southampton to Hythe, as well as great discounts at attractions including New Forest Wildlife Park, Ringwood Brewery and Beaulieu National Motor Museum.

The Tour runs hourly seven days a week from **Sat 6 July to Sun 8 September** (see map on centre pages for routes).

Tour information

thenewforesttour.info

 @NewForestTour
 NewForestTour



newforestmarque.co.uk

 @NewForestMarque

 new-forest-marque

The sign of true local produce



Immerse yourself in the New Forest when you visit by sampling its food, drink and crafts.

To ensure you are getting genuine local produce look out for the New Forest Marque as you shop and eat in the National Park.

The Marque is the region's leading authority on quality craftsmanship, food and drink. It is the sign of true, local produce that is guaranteed to have been produced in the New Forest.

There are around 150 Marque businesses who are passionate about their local products.

Look out for the blue symbol when visiting and you'll know you're eating local food or buying gifts made locally using local produce.

Love the Forest?

Then help secure the future of its wildlife, young people and commoners by donating to the New Forest Trust at newforesttrust.org.uk/donate



New Forest Reptile Centre

'A date with nature'

Did you know that amongst trees and heathland here in the New Forest there are some very special residents? The New Forest is home to many reptiles and amphibians and if you want to see them up-close you should visit the Reptile Centre, near Lyndhurst.

As you look around the habitats, or 'pods' as we call them, see if you can spot the elusive smooth snake, adder, or the bright colours of the male sand lizard.

There is also a self-guided discovery trail, which starts at the Reptile Centre. This route is easy to walk and takes you in a loop back to the centre. Download the trail map that shows you the best places to stop along the way and look at wildlife as you walk. For dates and opening times visits: forestryengland.uk/new-forest-reptile-centre

'A Date With Nature' is a joint venture between the RSPB, Forestry England, New Forest National Park Authority and Carnyx Wild.



Discover the New Forest

While you're visiting the New Forest, why not check out nearby Moors Valley Country Park?

Explore waymarked footpaths and cycle routes, hire a bike or bring your own. For a more leisurely journey take a trip on the narrow-gauge steam train. Children will love the adventure play areas and the 'Play Trail' with its huge wooden play structures.

If you'd rather live life more adventurously why not try Go Ape, the UK's number one forest adventure? With challenges for adults and

children, plus the option to hire a Forest Segway, there really is something for everyone. And, when you're feeling hungry you can enjoy delicious food in Seasons restaurant.

Moors Valley is open all year round, with a full programme of events for adults and children. Disabled access and facilities are provided including wheelchair and mobility scooter hire.

moors-valley.co.uk
f officialmoorsvalley

New for 2019

New activity trail at Moors Valley, near Ringwood, based on Zog the lovable dragon from Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's magical picture book. Children can follow the trail through Zog's forest classroom to learn more about the animals and habitats around them.

Finding out more...

Lepe Country Park
hants.gov.uk/lepe

New Forest Heritage Centre, Lyndhurst
newforestcentre.org.uk

The National Park Mobile Information Unit, various locations
newforestnpa.gov.uk/visiting

New Forest Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst
Bolderwood Information Unit

St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery, Lymington
stbarbe-museum.org.uk

Ringwood Gateway
Ringwood.gov.uk/gateway

Fordingbridge Information Centre
fordingbridge.gov.uk/fordingbridge-information-office



Lepe

For a map of all Forestry England car parks visit:
forestryengland.uk/newforest



The New Forest's free tap water service, across the forest. Download the Refill app, bring your own water bottle, look out for the window stickers and get a free tap water refill. refill.org.uk/newforest



Caring for the Forest

How to enjoy and care for the New Forest

Ponies, donkeys, cattle, pigs & sheep

For their safety and your own please leave the animals alone - although owned and cared for by local people called commoners, they are unpredictable and best treated as wild. Please don't feed or pet them; there is plenty of natural food and it's best that they don't come to rely on people's attention. They may look friendly but they can bite and kick, especially ponies with foals.

Dogs

The New Forest is great for dogs but to minimise disturbance to wildlife, livestock and other people, please keep your dogs close by you and visible at all times - if necessary use a lead. Pick up after your dog, especially around car parks, on paths and where people play or picnic.

Birds

To help ground-nesting birds rear their young safely, keep yourself, dogs and horses on the main tracks from the beginning of March to the end of July.

Litter

Your food and litter could harm the ponies and donkeys. Please take your litter home if bins are full.

Barbecues & fires

To reduce the risk of damaging wildfires, campfires are not allowed without the landowner's permission. Disposable BBQs are only allowed at Bolderwood, Blackwater and Wilverley

where stands and water are available. Raised non-disposable BBQs are allowed on the hard-standing areas of car parks, providing water is available. You can hire fixed stand party-sized BBQs from the Forestry England (call 0300 067 4601) and from Hampshire County Council at Lepe Country Park hants.gov.uk/lepe or call 023 8089 9108 in advance).

Cycling

Cycling is allowed only on the waymarked tracks and other designated routes. When approaching people and animals, please call out a warning and pass slowly and wide. Try to leave gaps for overtaking vehicles and never ride more than two abreast. Keep to a safe speed, wear bright colours to be visible and always use lights in the dark.

Fungi

Please leave fungi for other people to enjoy. Fungi are essential to the New Forest's internationally protected ecosystem. Foray leaders must apply for permission for educational excursions from the Forestry England in advance. If you suspect or see commercial picking please call the Forestry England on 0300 067 4600.

Camping

There are 10 campsites in the New Forest, run by Camping in the Forest, as well as a number of private sites. Please note that camping in the wild and overnight parking is not allowed in the New Forest.

Horse riding

Horse riders have open access to the New Forest, but to reduce damage to the ground please use tracks when it's wet.

Ticks

Check your children, dog and yourself for ticks when you get back - they can lead to Lyme disease.

Driving

The speed limits on unfenced roads greatly reduce the number of accidents involving animals. Slow down and give walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and animals a wide berth. Be especially careful at night.

Parking

Please park only in designated car parks, not on a verge or in gateways. Lock your car, taking any valuables with you and leave Forestry England car parks by dusk.

Unidentified objects

Areas of the New Forest were used to test bombs in World War I and II. Please keep away from objects that might be dangerous and notify the police immediately on 999.

Working forest

Stay safe by obeying warning signs and keeping away from work sites and vehicles.

Meet your New Forest rangers

Both **Forestry England** and the **National Park Authority** employ rangers, who you'll often meet out and about in the New Forest. Here, you'll meet some of the team as they answer some of the most commonly asked questions by visitors to the New Forest.

If you have a question or would like to speak to one of the team, they can be contacted via the details at the bottom of the page.



Forestry England rangers



New Forest National Park Authority ranger team



How can I get involved in conservation work in the New Forest?

There are many conservation groups which work in and around the New Forest. If you visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/volunteering you can see all the volunteer groups and find one that interests you on the days you are free to join in.

Craig Daters, New Forest National Park Authority North Ranger



How can I help rare ground-nesting birds?

During spring and summer we urge you to keep yourself and your dogs to the main gravel tracks while you're out walking, cycling or horse riding, so the birds and young chicks are not disturbed.

Martin Rea and Wendy Woodhouse, Forestry England Seasonal rangers



Why can't we feed New Forest ponies?

Everyone loves the ponies, as a horse owner myself I love them, but we all need to act responsibly and keep a safe distance for our own protection, as well as the ponies. Many people don't understand they are semi-wild and find all the natural food they need to survive from the Forest.

Amy Howells, South Walk Ranger, Forestry England



What are the most popular things to do for free in the New Forest?

The Forest is full of walking and cycling trails of all distances, some of which can be started from Forestry England car parks. There is also over 26 miles of coastline to be explored. If you want to head to the beach while visiting the New Forest, Lepe Country Park is perfect for walks, lunch and learning about coastal wildlife and history (parking charges apply).

Chris Marshall, New Forest National Park Authority Coastal Ranger

newforestnpa.gov.uk/caringfor

Forestry England rangers

0300 067 4601
enquiries.southern@forestryengland.uk
Forestry England, The Queen's House,
Lyndhurst, Hampshire, SO43 7NH

New Forest National Park Authority rangers

01590 646 600
rangers@newforestnpa.gov.uk
New Forest National Park Authority,
Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road,
Lymington SO41 9ZG



At home in the forest

Enjoy the peace and quiet of the woods for longer with Camping in the Forest.

Camping in the Forest offers a place where you can disconnect from everyday life and the stresses of modern day living. The forest allows you to break free and reconnect with each other, with nature, but most importantly with yourself and a simpler way of life – leading to a calmer state of mind and a true sense of peace.

At Camping in the Forest, the connection with nature is vital to

the experience. We are conscious of the wildlife that calls this area home, aware of the measures in place to protect them and their surroundings, and we act on that where necessary.

All of our 15 campsites within the UK are set amongst idyllic woodlands on Forestry England land in National Park locations, including 10 within the New Forest alone.

Book today:
campingintheforest.co.uk
024 7767 0208.



Be extra careful ...



The New Forest has many picnic and barbecue sites that you can use; we ask that you bear in mind some important guidance when you're visiting this special landscape.

The forest is particularly vulnerable to the risk of wildfires; most are started by arson, discarded cigarettes, barbecues and campfires. Summer fires can cause serious harm to wildlife and destroy rare plants.

When the weather is glorious many people like to enjoy barbecuing in the beautiful surroundings of the forest. Unfortunately, if you use disposable barbecues on our

forest lawns it damages the grass and leaves behind unsightly scorch marks. The grass will take many weeks to recover and causes a loss of grazing for ponies.

If you're planning a barbecue in the forest please take a look at the following guidance and enjoy your sausages and burgers safely:

forestryengland.uk/barbecues-the-new-forest

What's on? 2019

New Forest Heritage Centre
Forestry England

New Forest National Park Authority

70 1949 2019 Year of Green Action events to celebrate 70 years of National Parks



Exhibitions in the New Forest Gallery

Gallery open daily 10am to 4.30pm from 1 April to 27 October (10am-3.30pm at all other times).

Forestry Commission Centenary Year

16 Mar – 7 Jul, open daily
Celebrating the Forestry Commission's achievements over the past century, this exhibition also looks at the importance of forests as biodiverse habitats.

The Seventh Annual New Forest Open Art Exhibition

13 Jul – 7 Sept, open daily
An exhibition showcasing the best of the creative New Forest.
New Forest Heritage Centre, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY



March

Talk: Hampshire – Nature in Trust

Fri 29 Mar 7.30pm (doors open 7pm), New Forest Heritage Centre, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY

Illustrated talk by photographer Mike Read based on his visits to 12 of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust reserves.

£6 per person, £4 for friends. Booking advised. Enquiries 02380 283444

April

Discovery Days at Bolderwood

Sat 6 Apr – Sun 21 Apr 10.30am–3.30pm
Bolderwood SU242086

Come along and take part in seasonal activities at our Bolderwood Information Unit.

Free. Suitable for all. Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required. Enquiries: 0300 067 4601

Wild Wednesdays

Wed 10 April drop in between 10.30am – 3.30pm New Forest Reptile Centre, SU271071

Enjoy a date with nature at the Reptile Centre, with fun activities for the whole family. Quiz trail and making activities for children. Come and see our nestcam video from a bird of prey's nest as well as the reptiles and amphibians.

Car parking donations welcome. Suitable for all. Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required. Enquiries 0300 067 4601

Wild about ponies

Thur 11 Apr 1pm–2pm
Bolton's Bench, SU303081

Come and meet a New Forest ranger and learn about ponies and other livestock which live on the forest. Come along to a fun, free information session and learn all the answers to your questions about the four-legged icons of the New Forest.

Free. Suitable for all. 1 mile. Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required. Enquiries: 0300 067 4601

Family Discovery Days

Learn about the New Forest and have fun with our family-friendly activities. No need to book, just drop in between 10am and 3pm to try different activities each day. (Museum entry is free, donation per craft activity.)

19 Feb	18 Apr	6 Aug	22 Aug
21 Feb	28 Apr	8 Aug	27 Aug
9 Apr	30 Apr	13 Aug	29 Aug
11 Apr	30 Jul	15 Aug	
16 Apr	1 Aug	20 Aug	

New Forest Heritage Centre, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY

Easter Eggstravaganza

Fri 12 Apr 11am–3pm
Bolderwood Information Unit, SU242086

Meet our rangers, help spot the early signs of spring and celebrate our feathered friends. Take part in our Easter Trail at Bolderwood and learn about what special ground nesting birds we have here in the New Forest. If you manage to solve all the clues you can claim a prize!

£2.00 per entrant. Suitable for all ages, dogs welcome if kept on a lead.

70 1949 2019 Wild Play Day at the Beach

Tue 16 April drop in between 10am – 3pm Hurst Spit, Milford on Sea, SO41 0PY

Discover fun ways to explore, play and get creative in the outdoors. Come and try beach/forest art, seashore/forest scavenging and much more. Wear some old clothes weather appropriate and don't forget your wellies if you like a splash!

Suggested donation £1/child. Parking charges apply. Suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. Enquiries 01590 646600.

Wild Wednesdays

Wed 17 April drop in between 10.30am – 3.30pm New Forest Reptile Centre, SU271071
See Wed 10 April for details.

Wild About Ponies

Thur 18 Apr 1pm–2pm
Hatchet Pond SU369017
See Thur 11 Apr for details

Easter Crafts day

Sat 20 Apr 10am – 2pm
New Forest Heritage Centre, SO43 7NY


Have an 'egg-citing' time with our children's Easter crafts and make lots of fun things to take home.

Cost £1 per craft. Suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. Enquiries 02380 283444.

Verderers Hall Open Day

Fri 26 Apr 11am-3pm

Come and visit the Verderers Hall, for an exclusive opportunity to visit this historic building and learn more about the important role it plays in the New Forest. Parking in main Lyndhurst Town car park only.

 Free. Suitable for all. Dogs not suitable on this event. No booking required. Enquiries: 0300 067 4601

May

Woodland Wander

Thur 9 May 10am-3pm
Acres Down, SU266097

A lovely walk through woodland and heath with insights into commoning and local history, followed by an optional stop, in the heart of the forest.

 £6 per person. 11 years+. 6 miles. Dogs welcome on a lead. Please book online: forestryengland.uk/newforestevents. Enquiries: 0300 068 0400

Talk: 'A Forester's Career' by Harry Oram

Wed 22 May 7pm New Forest Heritage Centre, SO43 7NY

Harry Oram, former Chief Forester / Operations Manager at the Forestry Commission, managed the timber enclosures and the Open Forest. With help from the collections here in our museum, he will recall how some of the forestry tools were used.

 £6 per person, £4 for friends. Booking advised. Enquiries 02380 283444

Discovery Days at Bolderwood

Sat 25 May- Sun 2 June
Bolderwood, SU242086

See Sat 6 Apr for details.

Child of the Wild

Tues 28 May 10.30am-12pm
Blackwater Arboretum, SU268047

Get back to nature and explore your senses with this fun and interactive event. The morning will be full of hands-on activities and a chance to explore with your senses.

 £5 per child. 3 years+. 1 mile. Dogs not suitable on this event. Please book online: forestryengland.uk/newforestevents. Enquiries: 0300 068 0400



The Castleman Corkscrew: A History of the New Forest Railway

Wed 29 May 10am-1pm.
Burbush Car Park, SU202018

Follow the trackbed of the Castleman Railway to Holmsley via open forest with panoramic views across the landscape, stopping for optional refreshments at a local tea room. Learn about some of the history of this line and the forest in general.

 £6 per person. 10 years+. 4.5 miles. Dogs welcome on a lead. Please book online: forestryengland.uk/newforestevents. Enquires: 0300 068 0400

Wild Wednesdays

Wed 29 May drop in between 10.30am – 3.30pm New Forest Reptile Centre, SU271071

See Wed 10 April for details.

Wild About Ponies – My Haunt

Thur 30 May 1pm-2pm
Tilery Road, SU308032


See Thur 11 Apr for details

June

Hedgerow Medicines Workshop

Sat 8 June 10.30am – 3pm
New Forest Heritage Centre, SO43 7NY

Kate Scott is educated in sustainable agriculture. She has worked alongside her husband for 25 years in both forestry and agriculture and will share her knowledge on how to use hedgerow plants to create simple remedies.

 Cost £45pp, provide own lunch. Booking essential. Enquiries 02380 283444

Verderers Hall Open Day

Fri 7 Jun 11am-3pm

See Fri 26 Apr for details.

Sunset Safari

Fri 7 Jun 8.30pm-10pm
Blackwater car park, SU268047


Experience New Forest wildlife as the sun sets. Listen for Nightjars; keep your eyes peeled for bats and watch out for deer.

 £10 per person. 10 years+. 2 miles. Dogs not suitable on this event. Please book online: forestryengland.uk/newforestevents. Enquiries: 0300 068 0400

Roydon Wood Fair

Sun 9 June drop in between 11am – 4.30pm Roydon Woods Nature Reserve, Lymington, SO41 8PN

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is hosting the 10th wood fair supported by the New Forest National Park Authority. Woodland products ranging from charcoal to hurdles will be on display on the day and there will be plenty of opportunity to have a go at woodland crafts. Lots of locally produced food and products will be available and a wide variety of children's activities will be laid on.

 Free entry. Dogs welcome. Please bring suitable clothing for the weather. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Plenty of parking at Roydon Woods Nature Reserve, off Sandy Down, Setley, near Brockenhurst (Map ref. SZ 313 995).

Family Fun Day

Sat 22 Jun drop in between 10am – 2pm, New Forest Heritage Centre, SO43 7NY

Fun and entertaining activities for all the family, all in aid of our museum and library.

 Donations for activities. Suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. Enquiries 02380 283444.

Sunset Safari

Sat 22 Jun 8.30pm-10pm
Blackwater, SU268047

See Fri 7 Jun for details.

July

Sunset Safari

Thur 4 Jul 8.30pm-10pm
Blackwater, SU268047

See Fri 7 Jun for details.

Sunset Safari

Wed 10 Jul 8.30pm-10pm
Blackwater, SU268047

See Fri 7 Jun for details.


Wild Wednesdays

Wed 24 July drop in between 10.30am – 3.30pm, New Forest Reptile Centre, SU271071

See Wed 4 Apr for details.

Fun in the Forest

Thur 25 Jul drop in between 10am – 3pm Puttles Bridge car park, Brockenhurst, SO42 7QB
Catch up with the New Forest rangers for a host of activities such as scavenger hunts, colouring and crafts. Wear old clothes and wellies and be ready for forest fun!

 Suggested donation £1/child. Suitable for all (children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. Enquiries: 01590 646600.

Discovery days at Bolderwood

Sat 27 Jul- Sun 1 Sep
Bolderwood, SU242086

See Sat 6 Apr for details.

New Forest Show

Tue 30 July – Thu 1 August,
New Park, Brockenhurst

The New Forest Show offers visitors 30 acres of showground for the whole family to explore and is now rated among the top 10 agricultural shows in the country.

 Go to: newforestshow.co.uk

Wild Wednesdays

Wed 31 July drop in between 10.30 – 3.30pm Reptile Centre, SU271071

August

Child of the Wild


Tues 6 Aug 10.30am-12pm
Blackwater Arboretum, SU268047

See Tues 28 May for details.

Marine Wonders

Wed 7 and Thu 8 Aug drop in between 10am – 4pm, Lepe Country Park, SO45 1AD

Come to Lepe for two days of marine-themed fun: seashore safaris, arts and crafts, storytelling and much more.

 Free event, donations for craft activities welcome. No booking required. Parking charges apply (free for blue badge holders). Suitable for all (children must be accompanied by an adult). Enquiries 023 8089 9108

Wild Wednesdays


Wed 7 Aug drop in between 10.30 – 3.30pm Reptile Centre, SU271071

See Wed 10 April for details.

Discover the New Forest

Thur 8 Aug 11am-12pm
Bolderwood Information Unit, SU242086

Join a Ranger on a short guided walk and discover what makes the New Forest so special. Learn about the history and heritage of the Forest and its extraordinary diversity of wildlife.

 Free. Suitable for all. Dogs welcome on leads. Spaces limited. Please book on day at Bolderwood Information Unit.

Wild About Ponies

Thur 8 Aug 1pm-2pm
Bolton's Bench, SU303081

See Thur 11 Apr for details .

Wild Wednesdays

Wed 14 Aug drop in between 10.30 – 3.30pm Reptile Centre, SU271071

See Wed 10 April for details.

Discover the New Forest

Thur 15 Aug 11am-12pm
Bolderwood Information Unit, SU242086

See Thur 8 Aug for details.

Wild about ponies

Thur 15 Aug 1pm-2pm
Whitefield Moor, SU274026

See Thur 11 Apr for details.

Fun in the Forest

Thur 15 Aug drop in between 10am – 3pm, Wilverley Inclosure car park, Brockenhurst BH25 5TZ


Catch up with the New Forest rangers for a host of activities such as scavenger hunts, colouring and crafts. Wear old clothes and be ready for forest fun!

 Suggested donation £1/child. Suitable for all (children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. Enquiries: 01590 646600

Summer Wild Play Day

Tue 20 Aug drop in between 10am – 3pm Whitefield Moor, Brockenhurst, SO42 7QB

See Wed 10/17 April for details.

 Suggested donation £1/child. Donation for parking. Suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. Enquiries 01590 646600.

Wild Wednesdays

Wild Wednesdays
Wed 21 Aug drop in between 10.30 – 3.30pm Reptile Centre, SU271071

See Wed 10 April for details.

Discover the New Forest

Thur 22 Aug 11am-12pm
Bolderwood Information Unit, SU242086

See Thur 8 Aug for details.

Wild about ponies- Beaulieu Road Special

Thur 22 Aug 1pm-2pm
Beaulieu Road Sales Yard, SU350063

A unique opportunity to explore Beaulieu Road sales yard with a New Forest ranger. Come along to a fun, free information session and learn all the answers to your questions about the four-legged icons- New Forest ponies and other livestock which live on the forest.

 Free. Suitable for all. 1 mile. Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required. Enquiries: 0300 067 4601

Wild Wednesdays

Wed 28 Aug drop in between 10.30 – 3.30pm Reptile Centre, SU271071

See Wed 10 April for details.

Discover the New Forest

Thur 29 Aug 11am-12pm
Bolderwood Information Unit, SU242086

See Thur 8 Aug for details.

Wild about ponies


Thur 29 Aug 1pm-2pm
Hatchet Pond, SU369017

See Thur 11 Apr for details.

Fun in the Forest

Thur 29 Aug drop in between 10am – 3pm, Anderwood car park, Lyndhurst Road, Burley BH24 4HS

Catch up with the New Forest rangers for a host of activities such as bug and scavenger hunts, colouring and crafts. Wear old clothes and be ready for some forest fun!

 Suggested donation £1/child. Suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. Enquiries 01590 646600.



September

Verderers Hall Open Day


Fri 13 Sept Date 11am- 3pm

See Fri 26 Apr for details.

Lymington - Keyhaven Nature Reserve Open Day

Sun 15 Sept drop in between 10.30am - 4pm Lymington - Keyhaven Nature Reserve, Normandy Lane, SO41 8AE, SZ330 943

Come to Hampshire's premiere 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.

 This is a joint free event between Hampshire County Council, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and the New Forest National Park Authority. Suitable for all (children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. Enquiries: 01590 674 656




October

70¹⁹⁴⁹ New Forest Walking Festival

Sat 12 – Sun 27 Oct, locations across the Forest

Join local experts for fascinating New Forest walks at the seventh annual walking festival. Includes wildlife walks, history hikes and family strolls and activity trails.

 Booking is essential. Browse the walks and book from August onwards at newforestnpa.gov.uk/walkingfestival

A Walk through Time

Tues 15 Oct 10am-1pm
Setley Pond, SZ302993

A walk of contrasts, learning about the Bronze Age people, their burial customs and their lasting impact on the New Forest landscape.

 £ 6 per person. 10 years+. 3.5 miles. Dogs welcome on a lead. Please book online: forestryengland.uk/newforestevents. Enquiries: 0300 068 0400

A Walk on the Wild Side

Wed 16 Oct 10am-2pm
Wilverley Plain, SU253010

Join a Forestry England Volunteer Ranger on this beautiful walk to learn more about the roles of the Verderers, Agisters and Keepers, and the management of our four legged architects- the NF ponies.

 £6 per person. 12 years+. 7 miles. Dogs welcome on leads. Please book online: forestryengland.uk/newforestevents. Enquiries: 0300 068 0400

Walk with a Commoner

Thur 17 Oct 10am-1pm
Beaulieu Road, SU350063


Enjoy a guided walk with a Forestry England volunteer ranger who has ponies on the forest.

 £6 per person. 15 years+. 5 miles. Dogs welcome on a lead. Please book online: forestryengland.uk/newforestevents. Enquiries: 0300 068 0400

Autumn in the Forest

Sun 20 Oct 9.30am-2pm
Eyeworth Pond, SU228146


Spend the morning with two of the Forestry England's Volunteer Rangers on an autumnal walk as part of this year's Walking Festival. Savour the colour, sights and sounds of the forest at this special time of year.

 £6 per person. 16 years+. Dogs not suitable on this event. Please book online: forestryengland.uk/newforestevents. Enquiries: 0300 068 0400

Autumn Through a Lens

Sun 27 Oct 10am-3pm
Anderwood car park, SU249056


Bring your camera for a gentle 4 mile walk with lots of opportunities to photograph the autumn scenery.

 £6 per person. 12 years+. Dogs not suitable on this event. Please book online: forestryengland.uk/newforestevents. Enquiries: 0300 068 0400

Things you Might Not Know about the New Forest

Mon 28 Oct 10am-12pm
Verderers Hall, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NH


Join one of our Volunteer Rangers in the historic setting of the Verderers Hall for an illustrated talk for a general introduction to the New Forest

 £6 per person. 10 years+. Dogs not suitable on this event. Please book online: forestryengland.uk/newforestevents. Enquiries: 0300 068 0400

70¹⁹⁴⁹ Autumn Wild Play Day

Wed 30 October drop in between 10am – 3pm
Holmsley Campsite, Forest Road, Burley BH23 8EB

See 16 April for details.

 Suggested donation £1/child. Suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. Enquiries 01590 646600.

Beaulieu

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Sorry, not valid on Bank Holidays or School Holidays

A year in the New Forest

The New Forest may seem like a wild place, but its diverse habitats have been created by a long history of grazing and management. Today, Forestry England, the National Park Authority and many other organisations look after this special place...

Spring



Spring brings the arrival of foals.

One of the great attractions of the New Forest is undoubtedly the ponies. Although the new-born donkeys and ponies look cute, avoid coming in between a mother and its foal, as they are very protective of their young.

Rare birds beneath your feet! The heathlands are home to birds with superb camouflage that take their chances nesting on the ground. You can help these birds thrive by keeping to the main tracks until July. If you have a dog, keep it on the tracks too – if necessary use a lead.



Summer



Woodland 'rides' (open pathways) allow access for machinery but are also important for recreation and conservation. An active programme of ride restoration has seen forest plants re-establishing and an increase in insects, small mammals and birds of prey over recent years.

In the summer you might spot a harvester mowing bracken on areas of heathland, by removing this potentially invasive species other plants are able to thrive.



Autumn



A working forest... The forest industry in the New Forest dates back to the first inclosure in 1483, timber being produced was of national value for the ship building industry. Today, timber production is centred on 9,000 hectares which are inclosed from grazing animals, producing 50,000m³ of timber each year.

Autumn colours... October is the time of year when the golden autumn colours of the Forest look their best.



Winter



Open heaths need to be managed to control the vegetation and provide good habitats for birds and other wildlife, as well as grazing for ponies, cattle and deer.

Winter burning... Today, work by Forestry England includes controlled burning, gorse cutting and bracken harvesting as well as restoring of valley mires and removing invasive species, such as rhododendron.

