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Progress report 2017

Partnership Plan for the New Forest National Park

All National Parks are expected to have a Management Plan for their area, to help guide the work of partners with responsibilities and an interest in the Park.

In November 2015, the main partner organisations listed below came together to produce a Partnership Plan as a supplement to the existing Management Plan for the New Forest National Park. The Partnership Plan brings the Management Plan up to date and suggests a number of new actions for 2015 – 2020 covering a wide range of topics.

This annual Progress Report highlights some of the actions which are already underway. We recognise that we are at a time in the life of the Forest where collective leadership is needed to secure this unique living, working landscape for future generations. We will continue to work together as a team to deliver the Partnership Plan themes of

‘protect, enjoy and prosper’. Whilst bringing different views and remits to the task, we will be prepared to be innovative and work with a ‘can do’ approach in the context of change to secure the best possible future for the Forest.

New Forest National Park Partnership Plan Partners

For any enquiries and the full Partnership Plan:

Call 01590 646679

Email policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk

newforestnpa.gov.uk/partnershipplan

NPA 00686

Produced jointly by:



Highlights Protect



Dawn Rayment, People and Wildlife Ranger.

Case study:

People and Wildlife Ranger

Each year, ranger Dawn Rayment talks with thousands of people out and about in the New Forest and encourages them to enjoy the area responsibly.

This work includes attending major Forest events, organising behaviour classes for dog owners and even running coffee mornings at iconic locations.

There is a particular focus on reducing disturbance of ground nesting birds during breeding season by encouraging people to stick to the main tracks from March until July.

Dawn's work is part of a 'Green Way' strategy to prevent any damage to the internationally-designated areas of the New Forest caused by new housing.

LH1 Page 20

8.4 hectares

of land has been enhanced for wildlife through practical, environmentally-friendly land management.

LH3 Page 20

1,635 metres

of hedge has been restored to create better links between habitats.

LH6 Page 20

1,000

dragon's teeth have been installed in Nomansland and Woodgreen to protect grazed verges from damage and erosion by vehicles.

LH8 Page 21

4.3 km

of stream has been restored to its natural watercourse to benefit streamside habitats.

LH9 Page 21

16 properties

along the Cadnam River have had land treated for Japanese knotweed.

LM2 Page 22

20

training courses have taught local people traditional rural skills such as land management, coppicing and hedge laying.

LM5 Page 23

35 hectares

of woodland is undergoing restoration across eight sites to increase the economic viability and environmental value of New Forest woodlands.

LD6 Page 25

7

scheduled monuments have been protected from damage by fences or vegetation clearance.

LD9 Page 25

5

Neighbourhood Plans are being developed for Totton and Eling; Hythe and Dibden; Lymington; Milford on Sea and New Milton.

ST3 Page 27

3.5 km

stretch of high voltage electricity line has been chosen for possible undergrounding at Hale Purlieu.

Highlights Enjoy

SQ3 Page 28

1,699 days

spent undertaking conservation tasks and other public engagement activities by the Volunteer Ranger Service in 2016.

SQ4 Page 29

300%

increase in downloads of self-led walking and cycling trails on redesigned New Forest routes website, helping people to better understand the Forest when they visit.

EP2 Page 31

10

access improvements made, including upgrades on the surface of a bridleway in Hordle, cycle network signage improvements between Totton and Lyndhurst, and reinstatement of a footpath in Hythe, which had been washed away by flooding.



Hedge laying at Linwood

EP3 Page 31

2km

off-road cycle link was newly created between Marchwood and Eling.

The **Ashurst to Lyndhurst cycle route** was upgraded to a smooth tarmac surface and a **new footway** was installed to **Ashurst campsite**.

Working with the New Forest Access Forum, a **film** was developed to encourage mutual respect and responsible shared use of the network of roads and agreed tracks by all.

EP8 Page 31

£2.7m

is being spent on improving the visitor centre and cafe at Lepe Country Park.

Highlights Prosper

LC8 Page 33

350 people

regularly attend healthy walking groups across the New Forest and hundreds more have received dementia awareness training.

EW2 Page 34

£110,000

worth of grants

through the Rural Development LEADER Programme for the New Forest will fund the growth and creation of jobs in rural businesses and support local services.

EW5 Page 34

137

businesses are members of the New Forest Marque quality assurance scheme for local New Forest produce.



Left: Claire Lee New Forest Marque Manager.

Bottom right: Traditional building skills course.

EW8 Page 35

190

professionals and homeowners have been trained in traditional building skills.

TT9 Page 37

There were

6,774

additional passengers

on the Bluestar 6 bus service between Southampton and Lymington after being rebranded as the Forest Bus in 2016.



Brian Matthews, volunteer

Case study:

Award-winning volunteer

Brian Matthews, from Lymington spent an astonishing 400 hours volunteering to pull Himalayan balsam and other invasive plants in 2016.

As reward for his efforts he was named Project Champion for the non-native plants project and was on hand to officially open the 2017 New Forest Volunteer Fair.

The Volunteer Fair brought together more than 40 local organisations to offer hundreds of volunteer roles protecting the Forest to more than 700 attendees.



Walkers near Beaulieu Road