

Forestry England Update

March 2022



Joint patrols continue

We continue to work with Hampshire Constabulary's local policing teams on joint patrols with our Rangers and local partners covering key locations across the New Forest. The teams have been carrying out highly visible patrols that focussed on speed checks along Roger Penny Way and stopping vans that were suspected to be involved with fly-tipping.

More patrols are planned over the coming months and we continue to remind everyone working and travelling in the Forest to take extra care and be especially mindful of animals on or close to the roads.



We have reviewed the impact of the Action Plan from last summer and are keen to share these results with local people.

We're now working on a revised Action Plan to continue this coordinated approach with our local partners, including the New Forest National Park Authority, New Forest District Council, and Go New Forest with support from The Verderers, Hampshire and IOW Fire and Rescue Service, and Hampshire Constabulary.

2021 New Forest Action Plan Results



Sharing the New Forest Code

- 400 social media posts
- 1.1m impressions
- 55k engagements
- 1.6m+ newsletters to subscribers
- 8 joint press releases

Digital signs at key roads into the Forest

Included in tourism information boards in all key villages, towns and Forest campsites



Signs

New signage across all Forestry England car parks – updated throughout the season to deal with persistent issues

Mobile signage targeting key hotspots

- 16 signs to discourage feeding and petting of livestock helping to reduce feeding
- 18 mobile signs substantially reduced verge parking



BBQ ban

Removal of BBQ points across the Forest

- 40 extra no BBQ or fire signs
- 50 retailers removed disposable BBQs from sale including several major supermarkets

Outdoor fires in the New Forest Area fell by 40% (compared with 2020), and were 30% less than in 2019 before the pandemic



Increased joint patrols

A boost in the number of rangers resulting in over 10k hours of joint patrols

- 29 joint patrols with the emergency services (police and fire service)
- 70 patrols focused specifically on supporting the ground nesting bird campaign



Litter

- 8.6% fall in litter despite visitor numbers at coastal locations up 60%
- 230k bags given out to encourage people to take litter home. #Crabby campaign
- Fly-tips on the Forest downward trend in 2021

Community support

Growth in the activity of community litter picking groups.

New Forest ambassador scheme:	Community verge parking reporting:
1,000 litter picking kits created	737 ambassadors recruited
	600 reports made by the public over the pandemic

Supporting commoning – Drifts – Forestry England managed 80 car park and 18 cycle route closures, and around 200 additional signs put in place to notify the public



Forestry England's contractors have now completed the felling work at **Kings Copse Inclosure**, near Holbury, **South Oakley Inclosure** and **Knightwood** near Burley. We'd like to thank local people for their patience whilst forestry activities took place. The next phase of the work at **Kings Copse** will include removing some of the debris left behind after the felling work and restoring the cleared area by removing the tree stumps.

There continues to be roadside tree safety work taking place across many Forest roads to help make the area safer for everyone living close-by. Unfortunately, some large, old trees do pose a risk and whilst we value their benefits, we have to take precautions to keep within reasonable limits the risk they pose to people and property.

Also, contractors have started work in **Denny Inclosure**, near Lyndhurst, removing conifer trees to start the journey towards restoring this area back to heathland.

Please visit our [website for more information](#)



We've been removing some pine regrowth on the open forest at Dur Hill over the past few weeks.

This work aims to maintain the rare heathland and wood pasture, preventing the landscape from turning to scrub and supporting precious habitats and a wide-range of wildlife.

Heathland restoration work also continues at Dunces Arch, near Lyndhurst.



Supporting ground nesting birds - 2021 season summary

In spring last year, Forestry England and the New Forest National Park Authority launched our annual campaign to support the ground nesting bird season here in the New Forest.

The campaign was supported by many local organisations and businesses, and we are grateful to them all for their assistance. Working together we were able to reach a much wider group of people to make them aware of the birds and the steps they can take to avoid disturbing them. Information was sent out to local residents, articles and updates published in parish newsletters and posters shared via local noticeboards, businesses and community venues.

Supporting ground nesting birds is a long-term project and although numbers of the birds overall remain critically low, there are some signs of hope. The team working on the ground to monitor the birds have identified some positive signs of progress.

To find out more about the impact and the 2022 campaign - www.forestryengland.uk/ground-nesting-bird



The tree planting season will soon start across our region with 200,000 young trees arriving at many of the forests that we manage! This includes trees being planted in Denny Lodge and Stubby Inclosure, near Lyndhurst.

By re-planting trees we are ensuring continuity of habitat and providing all the other benefits that trees bring, including carbon sequestration and the boost to health and wellbeing that people take in visiting our forests.

Our teams across the south of England will play a vital role in looking after the new trees, with special attention paid to them for the first five years, a critical time for young trees to become established, which goes to the heart of what Forestry England is all about.

