



New Forest Access Forum update on behalf of Forestry England

12 September 2022



The HLS wetland restoration programme continues - this summer contractors returned to sites that were previously worked, to repair small parts of forest streams and mires.

This work aims to maintain the watercourses and help to make sure streams and the surrounding habitats are more resilient in both winter floods and summer droughts.

Whilst a lot of restoration work should consolidate itself, this highlights the need for ongoing resources to secure and further improve the benefits we're seeking.



This year it's been another hugely successful breeding season for goshawks in the New Forest. We've had 38 known breeding pairs in the Forest, as well as few pairs outside the Forest.

The delicate task of ringing young goshawks in the New Forest recently took place. This important task helps Forestry England's wildlife team to monitor the birds' progress and is helping keep track of the recovery of goshawks in the wider English landscape.

(The New Forest is a goshawk stronghold; close to 5% of the entire UK population lives here).



We're pleased with the robust action taken by Wildlife & Rural Crime Officer, Police Constable Matthew Thelwell, who issued a dog walker with a Community Resolution Order for not having her dog under control.

A number of rare eggs were destroyed by the dog, as well as disturbing the Curlew's nesting area, which constitutes an offence under the Countryside and Wildlife Act 1981.

In these sensitive nesting areas of the Forest we installed highly visible signs in the spring, alerting people and asking them to support the birds by staying on the main tracks together with their dogs.

Sadly on this occasion this advice was ignored and as a result the Police took action to ensure that this situation does not happen again.





Another vital part of Forestry England's work is monitoring the butterfly population and their habitats that we look after, so we can better understand the impacts of our changing environment.

The Forest Plans for our Inclosures help to link-up local populations of butterflies, and this year's results are showing some successes for certain butterfly species.

This year we focussed our displays in our woodland corner, which we branded the “Forest Activity Zone”. We were joined by Forest Services and other partner organisations such as PEDALL, The Freshwater Habitats Trust and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service.

Our main theme was the New Forest Code encouraging visitors and local people to get involved in lots of fun activities that delivered key messages about the code, and how we can all care for the New Forest.



Our Permissions team received over 4,500 application enquiries last year for permits. The success of permitted events is dependent on a supportive and collaborative approach, which resulted in 1,820 permitted events.

Including 3 social prescribing permissions:

- Healthy Walks
- Parkrun
- Pedall cycle rides
- 26,000 people engaged with sporting events
- 3,150 young people engaged with education and youth activities
- 7 Charity events (1,530 people)



We're in the process of selecting new campsite operators in time for the start of next year's season. The tender process is well underway and it is hoped this will be finalised this autumn. The tender and new operator is based on a 10-year option rather than the previous 65 years.

The full acquisition of the campsite business by Forestry England earlier this year provides us with greater control of the camping offer and the ability to balance the benefits of camping with sensitivity of their management.

We continue to work with new Forest organisations to ensure the current campsite management plans, in place to maintain and improve habitat condition, are implemented properly.



Joint operations to tackle fly-tipping continue, so far this year 140 vehicles have been stopped and checks carried out on waste carrier licences, the items being carried, and a range of other safety requirements.

Across the New Forest and are working together with Hampshire Constabulary and NFDC on a range of measures to deter and reduce waste being dumped on the Forest and in our car parks.



The extremely hot and dry conditions this summer presented a major risk of wildfire with potentially devastating effects.

We've continued to work closely with the Hampshire Fire and Rescues Service on sharing key messages with the public, new signage and joint patrols across the Forest.

The joint working between teams was essential for responding to the exceptional wildfire weather that saw a red rating alert for the first time.



Forestry England's contractors have recently completed a busy programme of works in the New Forest: **Busketts Lawn and Denny Inclosures** thinning out some trees to give the remaining ones more space to grow.

During the next 2 months there will be further forestry activities on **Matley Ridge**, near Lyndhurst and **Turf Hill**, clear-felling conifer trees to restore these areas back to heathland.

Repairs to our network of gravel tracks is due to be carried out this month in Sloden, Amberwood and Alderhill Inclosures.

