

National Park Access Updates March 2022

Volunteer Access Work

The Access Surveyors are currently surveying the NPA promoted routes network. They will receive training in April and move on to completing path surveys in May.

The Path Clearance Crew will restart in April and we will start training Lead Volunteers who will receive additional training and will lead independent tasks.

The New Forest Walks App

We are adding several new routes to our Walking App and improving overall map quality. This is in addition to the previous accessibility improvements we made last year. Digital signposting is important to use in very sensitive habitats such as the New Forest.

England Coast Path

The Calshot to Gosport section of the ECP has been determined. Works will start at the end of April to install infrastructure along the route. This will include signposts, interpretation panels, accessible gates and a short section of surface improvements. We are liaising closely with the Cadland Estate throughout these works.

There is no official timescale yet for the Highcliffe to Calshot Section. The HRA is still being completed and after that all the 70+ objections must be investigated by the planning inspectorate. My guess is that we'll get approval late 2023 and start work in 2024.

The National Grid, Landscape Enhancement Project

This three-year project has now been approved and we are waiting for the funds. The first piece of work with those funds will be to add oak signposts to NPA promoted walking routes at Hale & Woodgreen and at Landford & Hamptworth. We are also hopeful to resurface the path along the Tatchbury Mount trail.

The New Forest Access Forum

Current Access Forum activity has included.

- Preparation for the March meeting
- Recruitment of new members to represent Estate Management, Landowning, Wildlife & Conservation, Health & Wellbeing and Youth & Education.

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